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SUBJECT ENEMY PLANS FOR THE THIRD PHASE OF THE SUMMER CAMPAIGN IN QUANG NAM PROVINCE

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VIETNAM, DANANG (11 JUNE 1968) [redacted]

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SUMMARY: GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM (GVN)/U.S. OPERATIONS HAVE DISRUPTED VIET CONG/NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY PLANS IN QUANG NAM PROVINCE AND CAUSED HEAVY CASUALTIES. THE THIRD PHASE OF THE SUMMER CAMPAIGN WILL BE CONDUCTED DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE, AFTER WHICH THE SUMMER CAMPAIGN WILL BE TERMINATED. PRIMARY OBJECTIVES DURING THIS PHASE ARE TO OVERRUN AND DISPEL US/GVN FORCES FROM DISTRICT CAPITALS IN CENTRAL QUANG NAM PROVINCE, WHILE THE SECONDARY OBJECTIVES ARE TO PROBE AND SHELL DANANG, HOI AN, AND THEIR ENVIRONS. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING THE SECOND PHASE OF THE VIET CONG (VC)/ NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY (NVA) SUMMER CAMPAIGN THE STRENGTH

OF THE COMMAND HEADQUARTERS OF THE QUANG DA SPECIAL ZONE WAS INCREASED AND THESE FORCES ARE CONSIDERED TO HAVE THE STRENGTH AND CAPABILITY OF CARRYING OUT A PLAN WHICH WAS DRAWN UP BY THE QUANG DA SPECIAL-ZONE COMMAND HEADQUARTERS (QSZH). THE PLAN WILL FULFILL AN URGENT REQUIREMENT TO SUPPORT POLITICAL ACTIVITIES AND TO COORDINATE WITH OTHER ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

2. THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM (GVN)/U.S. SWEEP OPERATIONS IN THE GO NOI AREA, QUANG NAM PROVINCE, HAD NOT BEEN ANTICIPATED; THE VC SUFFERED HEAVY CASUALTIES. THE VC HAD TO GO ON THE DEFENSIVE AND THE OFFENSIVE PLANS WERE TEMPORARILY POSTPONED.

3. THE SUMMER CAMPAIGN WILL BE TERMINATED AT THE END OF JUNE EVEN THOUGH ALL OBJECTIVES HAVE NOT BEEN ATTAINED. THEREFORE, THE QSZH WILL MAKE A MAXIMUM EFFORT DURING THE THIRD AND FINAL PHASE OF THIS CAMPAIGN, FROM THE BEGINNING TO THE END OF JUNE, TO PREPARE FOR THE RAINY SEASON CAMPAIGN.

4. THE DATE OF TROOP MOVEMENTS FOR THIRD PHASE OPERATIONS HAS BEEN KEPT SECRET. HOWEVER, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON THE QSZH PLANS WAS REVEALED BY TIEN NAM, DISTRICT

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UNIT COMMANDER OF UNIT 75, OF DIEN BAN DISTRICT, WHO RECENTLY RETURNED FROM A MEETING HELD IN THE LOC HIEP AREA.

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([redacted] COMMENT: THE LOC HIEP AREA, OR "B AREA" INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING VILLAGES IN DAI LOC AND DUC DUC DISTRICTS: DAI LOC DISTRICT: LOC TAN, LOC HOA, LOC QUANG, LOC PHONG, AND LOC PHUOC. DUC DUC DISTRICT: LOC QUY, LOC THANH, AND LOC SON. IT IS A LEVEL AREA WEST OF THE GO NOI AREA IN DIEN BAN DISTRICT .)

A. THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVES OF THE THIRD PHASE ATTACKS WILL BE THE DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS OF DUY XUYEN, DUC DUC, THUONG DUC, AND DAI LOC, TO GAIN CONTROL OF THESE AREAS. MEANWHILE, A CORRIDOR WILL BE ESTABLISHED TO PROTECT THE LOC HIEP BASE AREA, WHICH IS THE STAGING AREA FROM WHERE ALL QUANG DA SPECIAL-ZONE ACTIVITIES WILL BE LAUNCHED BECAUSE THE GO NOI AREA WAS OVERRUN.

B. THE SECONDARY OBJECTIVES ARE DANANG, HOI AN, DIEN BAN, HIEU DUC, AND HOA VANG. PROBING ATTACKS AND HEAVY SHELLING WILL BE CARRIED OUT AGAINST THE IMPORTANT BASES IN THESE AREAS, PARTICULARLY AGAINST NON NUOC AND THE AREAS SOUTH OF DANANG, TO GAIN CONTROL OF THESE AREAS.

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C. SABOTAGE ATTACKS OF SQUAD LEVEL WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY SAPPER UNITS IN DANANG AND HOI AN CITIES. IF THE OPPORTUNITY ARISES, THE QSZH REGULAR FORCES WILL BE STRENGTHENED TO CARRY OUT ATTACKS ON THE SUBURBAN AREAS OF DANANG.

D. SAPPER AND GUERRILLA FORCES AND WEAPONS HAVE BEEN INFILTRATED INTO DANANG ON A VERY LARGE SCALE. ALTHOUGH GVN AUTHORITIES HAVE ARRESTED SOME INFILTREES, ONLY ABOUT 20 PERCENT OF THE INFILTREES AND WEAPONS HAVE BEEN CAPTURED.

E. THE FOLLOWING UNITS ARE PREPARING FOR COMBAT OPERATIONS:

(1) THE 36TH REGIMENT, 308TH DIVISION, CONSISTING OF THREE BATTALIONS OF FOUR COMPANIES EACH.

(2) THE 31ST REGIMENT, 341ST DIVISION, CONSISTING OF TWO BATTALIONS, OF WHICH ONE, BATTALION 101, HAS BEEN DETACHED FROM THE 31ST REGIMENT, 2ND DIVISION.

(3) THE 73RD SAPPER BATTALION.

(4) ARTILLERY UNITS 68 AND 368.

F. THE LOCAL MAIN FORCES AVAILABLE ARE:

(1) THE 3RD BATTALION. THIS NEWLY RECONSTITUTED BATTALION IS THE FORMER 7TH BATTALION OF THE 31ST REGIMENT, 2ND DIVISION, WHICH WAS ATTACHED TO THE QUANG DA SPECIAL ZONE.

(2) BATTALIONS R.20, T.89, AND T.87.

5. THE 2ND DIVISION HAS ITS UNITS DISPERSED AS FOLLOWS:

A. THE 1ST AND 21ST REGIMENTS MOVED INTO THE BATTLE FOR KHAM DUC ON ABOUT 10 MAY, WHERE THEY SUFFERED HEAVY CASUALTIES. THESE UNITS HAVE DISPERSED AND ARE LOCATED IN THE SOUTHWESTERN AREAS OF HIEP DUC DISTRICT WHERE THEY ARE TO RECEIVE REPLACEMENTS TO RESTORE THEIR STRENGTH.

B. THE 31ST REGIMENT HAS DISPERSED AND IS LOCATED IN THE BORDER AREA OF HIEP DUC DISTRICT AND QUE SON DISTRICT, QUANG NAM PROVINCE. THE MISSION OF THIS REGIMENT IS TO COUNTER SWEEP OPERATIONS.

6. THE 36TH REGIMENT, 308TH DIVISION, ARRIVED AT BINH TRAM (WAY STATION) 21, LOCATED IN QUANG DA SPECIAL ZONE IN ABOUT APRIL 1968, WITH THE MISSION OF REPAIRING THE STRATEGIC ROUTE WHICH LINKS A SAU (A SHAU VALLEY) WITH THE A VUONG RIVER, AND WITH DANANG. THE REGIMENT'S FIRST BATTALION OPERATES INDEPENDENTLY AND IS CONTINUING THE ROAD-REPAIR

MISSION. AFTER 10 MAY THE 2ND AND 3RD BATTALIONS OF THE REGIMENT ON ORDERS FROM MILITARY REGION 5 HEADQUARTERS WERE PUT UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE QSZH AND MOVED TO THE GO NOI AREA TO AWAIT OPERATIONAL ORDERS. THERE THEY ENCOUNTERED US/GVN FORCES AND THE 2ND BATTALION WAS COMPLETELY DESTROYED, WHILE THE 3RD BATTALION SUFFERED LIGHT CASUALTIES. THE REMAINDER OF THESE UNITS IS NOW LOCATED IN THE MOUNTAINOUS AREAS OF LOC HIEP, WHERE THEY ARE TO RECEIVE REPLACEMENTS AND RECOVER THEIR STRENGTH.

7. TWO COMPANIES SUBORDINATE TO THE COMMAND COMMITTEE OF INTERGROUP Q.82, WHICH IS COMMANDED BY INTERGROUP COMMANDER TIEN NAM, ARE LOCATED IN THE AREA OF THANH MINH AND VINH XUAN VILLAGES, DIEN BAN DISTRICT, WITH THE MISSION OF COUNTERING ALLIED SWEEP OPERATIONS. ON 7 JUNE TIEN NAM ORDERED THE RECONNAISSANCE ELEMENT OF THIS UNIT TO COORDINATE WITH THE RECONNAISSANCE UNITS OF THE QSZH TO STAY CLOSE TO THE THANH QUIT AND VINH DIEN AREAS. A COMBAT PLAN TO ATTACK THOSE POSITIONS HAS BEEN PREPARED.

8. ALTHOUGH INTERGROUP Q.82 HAS NOT YET RECEIVED ORDERS TO TAKE PART IN THE THIRD AND FINAL PHASE OF THE

SUMMER CAMPAIGN, THIS UNIT MAY BE ASSIGNED TO ATTACK THE VINH DIEN BRIDGE, AND TO ADVANCE AND ATTACK VINH DIEN QUARTER DURING THE COMING DARK PHASE OF THE MOON.

9. THE QSZH AND MILITARY REGION 5 FAVOR REOCCUPYING THE PHU KY AREA (GO NOI AREA) AT ANY COST, AND THE 2ND DIVISION WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS MISSION.

10. ([redacted] COMMENT: THE UNITS LISTED GENERALLY AGREE WITH CURRENT OB HOLDINGS. HOWEVER, ON 13 JUNE ELEMENTS OF THE 21ST REGIMENT WERE CONTACTED NEAR DAK PEK IN KONTUM PROVINCE, FAR SOUTH OF THE REGIMENT'S USUAL OPERATING AREA.) EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs (C)

11. [redacted] DISSEM: STATE USMACV 7TH AIR FORCE CORDS CINCPAC PACFLT ARPAC PACAF. EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs (C)

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